

**Claims**

1. An ingestable composition for the photoprotection of the skin which comprises a photoprotecting effective amount of i) at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and ii) at least one yeast and/or carotenoid or derivative, included into an ingestable carrier.  
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2. A composition according to claim 1, in which the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of lactic acid bacteria, preferably Lactobacilli, 10 Bifidobacteria or Enterococci.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2, in which the lactic acid bacterium is *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, , *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* or a mixture thereof.  
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4. A composition according to one of claims 1 to 3, in which the lactic acid bacterium is CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168 or CNCM I-2170.  
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5. A composition according to one of claims 1 to 4, in which the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included into the carrier in a live form, semi-active or in desactivated form, preferably as a lyophilized powder attention.  
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6. A composition according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the carotenoid is a carotenoid with or without provitamin A activity, such as  $\beta$ -carotene,  $\gamma$ -carotène,  $\alpha$ -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthine and luteine, or a mixture thereof.

7. A composition according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, or a mixture thereof.
- 5        8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the yeast is *S. cerevisiae*
9. A composition according to one of claims 1 to 8, which is in the form of
  - i) a nutritionally complete pet food in a powdered, dried or a wet, chilled or shelf stable form or,
  - 10      ii) in the form of a dietary adjunct or a supplement or a treat.
10. Use of a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof and at least one yeast and/or carotenoid, for preparing an ingestable carrier for the protection of the skin against solar radiations and attenuating or preventing all related skin disorders.
- 15      11. The use according to claim 10, in which the lactic acid bacterium is *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, or a mixture thereof *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* or a mixture thereof.
- 20      12. The use according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168, CNCM I-2170 or ATCC 27536.
- 25      13. The use according to one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, or a mixture thereof.

14. The use according to one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is present in the carrier in an amount of from about  $10^5$  to  $10^{12}$  cfu/ g carrier, the yeast from about  $10^5$  to  $10^{15}$  cfu/ g of the carrier.

5       15. The use according to one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the carotenoid is present in the carrier in an amount of from  $10^{-12}\%$  to 20% by weight.

16. The use according to any of claims 10 to 15, for the preparation of a composition intended for reducing the effects of photoageing in pets.

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17. A method for improving the photoprotective function of the skin of pets, which comprises the step of orally administering to the pet a composition comprising the combination of i) at least one probiotic lactic acid bacteria or a culture supernatant thereof, and ii) at least one yeast and/or carotenoid or derivative, in an ingestible carrier.

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18. A method according to claim 17, in which the composition is according to claims 1 to 9.

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